5/31/69

Dear Ian,

Many thanks for the Eric Norden Playboy piece on the paramilitary right. I do not see that learned journal, so I missed it. And I did want it. He and they had asked me for help on it, which is part of the reason I dug up some of the stuff you saw in COUP. My original idea was not that book. Then they cooled off, I suspect over the coming embarrassment of Norden's involvement with Flammonde on his plagiarism, which was really extensive. I had been promised mu costs back, and I didn't get them, either. I look forward to reading this piece when I have time to go through it without stopping. He should have some good Minuteman information from the interviews he was supposed to have and from the cooperation of a good reporter with good inside sources. This work goes back more than a year . I then had an inside source for him, but he never came back for what I had gotten him. Parenthetically, I have just tried to turn my source over to an interested and concerned police department and he is now, apparently, afraid.

Sending me this kind of article is helpful because there is much I miss, not having the time or money to get the many articles that come out. I plan to include the Warren Commission files on the Minutemen as an appendix to Coup, and what I got carrying them further. This includes a taped confession of overhearing them discuss a "contract" to knock JFK off-suppressed by the Commission, naturally, and by the FBI since. I did give that tape to one of the editors of Playboy, so it may be in the piece.

After getting it I tried to phone you when you were not in. You may recall I had asked you to try and get the documents filed by the US Government in retrieving Ray. I had earlier asked a young fan in England and had not had response. Then I learned she had tried, had reached Ray's lawyer, Michael Eugene, who refused to supply the information. He gave two reasons: there might still be a hearing and he didn't know me. He said he'd overcome the second handicap by checking on me with the FBI! And this the lawyer defending Ray? A new concept I thought absent in your country. And how does denying what the prosecution already has to those who say Ray did not commit the murder help him? I have written Eugene, but have had no answer. He also told this fine young woman that he had had about five inquiries for this material. Perhaps yours is one. I have asked her to go to the US Embassy and ask for this for me. If they also reject the request for what is public domain, I'll be little hurt, for that is almost as important as getting the actual documents. I already have enough of their content from the press. Proper analysis shows the real reason for denying it. It says the opposite of the official representation of what it says. It was misused. Here I do not mean in England, where I surmise "probable cause" was sufficient for the action taken. But it most certainly was misrepresented in Memphis.

I/we will be in Washington the 13th, when I have an 11:20 medical appointment. If you/ and your wife are free, perhaps we can have that postponed lunch then.

If you want to do an Otepka story, I can give you a good lead on some of his supporters. You may recall what has appeared in the press about his connection with Carto and Carto's control over something called the National Youth Alliance, formerly Youth for Wallace? Two of their advisers made contributions to the American Nazi Party! Otepka says Carto is a fine patriot. Both of these men, both retired general officers, are virulent anti-Semites.

Again thanks,